United Nations S/2000/1017

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 October 2000

Original: English

Note verbale dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the Security Council, and has the honour to refer to the most recent on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and hereby attach for your urgent attention a copy of the record of the meeting held on 16 October 2000 at Maputo (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Africa requests that You kindly circulate the enclosed document as a document of the Security Council.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 23 October 2000 from the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

MINI SUMMIT ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2000 : MAPUTO

INTRODUCTION.

The mini summit on the current situation in the DRC was attended by the Presidents of the DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa. The meeting was convened to address, primarily, the questions of the disengagement of forces in the DRC as well as the security concerns of the participants in the DRC conflict. The President of Angola, HE President dos Santos, sent an apology for his absence. He indicated that he received the invitation to the meeting at a late stage, as a result of which he was unable to make appropriate travel arrangements.

DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES

It was agreed that all the armed forces presently in the DRC will immediately start disengaging to positions set out in the Kampala disengagement plan adopted by the Political Committee. The meeting recognised that the Kampala plan indicated positions as at the time of its adoption, together with an agreement that the parties move a further 15 kilometres away from the indicated lines.

Uganda and Rwanda undertook to voluntarily move even further than the agreed lines. The other parties agreed that once MONUC has verified this process of further disengagement, they will reciprocate.

President Mbeki was requested to advise all other parties not present at the meeting of this understanding.

MONITORING OF THE DISENGAGEMENT

MONUC will be requested to monitor the disengagement.

SECURITY CONCERNS

The meeting agreed that the Ministers of Defence of the DRC, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and South Africa meet, to work out specific mechanisms to address the Interehamwe and ex-FAR problem. The Ministers can be assisted by such other officials as they deem necessary.

JMC

The meeting agreed that the Secretary General of the OAU be approached urgently to assist in identifying a Chairperson for the JMC, who should be an experienced military officer, preferably from the region.

THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

It was agreed that the political committee should hold regular meetings. The members of the committee should chair its meetings on a rotational basis.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

It was agreed that President Chiluba continue to address all the other issues arising out of the Lusaka agreement, especially the urgent matter of the internal political process in the DRC. Any proposal on possible adjustments to the Lusaka agreement would also be addressed through this process.

THE WAY FORWARD

The meeting agreed to reconvene in a fortnight, in Maputo, to receive reports on the implementation of these agreements.